

of almost \$1.5 billion; and engineering and manufacturing facilities in seven states.

It is no exaggeration to say that a huge contributor to the success of this business is its President & CEO, Raanan Horowitz. Raanan was one of the company's first employees, and since 2007 has led the company through America's times at war, economic challenges, and the uncertainty of the pandemic.

While nearly doubling the company's revenue under this tenure, he's ensured that Elbit Systems of America operates by the highest standards. In fact, the Ethisphere Institute has honored Elbit Systems of America with its World's Most Ethical Company award five times since 2014, and back-to-back in 2022 and 2023.

Elbit Systems of America's products are found in practically every major weapon system, they produce surveillance systems to help secure America's southern border, and blood diagnostic machines to help protect us from illnesses and diseases.

I'm proud to say that despite all its growth and success, Fort Worth, Texas remains Elbit Systems of America's home and headquarters, where it is actively engaged as a valued member of our community. The company is a national sponsor for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, raising awareness and funds for groundbreaking cancer research. Employees across the company also volunteer their personal time to support local food banks, family shelters, children's programs, and animal rescue.

Earlier this year Elbit Systems of America was named one of the Best Companies to Work for in the Great State of Texas, and I am proud to count them a member of Texas' 12th Congressional District.

I congratulate Elbit Systems of America for 30 years of operations, thank them for being such good neighbors and supporters of America's warfighters, law enforcement, and medical professionals, and wish them good luck during their future efforts in the decades to come.

RECOGNIZING DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join numerous organizations and individuals from around the country in observation of Distracted Driving Awareness Month. First introduced as a resolution by the Honorable Betsy Markey and passed by this chamber in March 2010, this commemoration brings critical attention to the devastating and persistent problem of distracted driving on our Nation's roadways.

The latest data show that more than 3,000 people a year, an average of nearly 9 each day, are killed in distracted driving crashes. According to the National Safety Council—a leading safety nonprofit organization that is based in my district—only 62 percent of drivers reported to be “very willing” to obey state laws preventing cell phone use. Over the last 10 years, the prevalence of drivers using hand-held electronic devices while driving has increased 127 percent, climbing from 1.5 percent in 2012 to 3.4 percent in 2021. It is alarmingly clear that too many drivers fail to understand the dangers of distracted driving.

Preliminary 2022 estimates from the National Safety Council indicate the deadly consequences of distracted driving are not fading. In 2022, over 46,000 people lost their lives in preventable traffic crashes. These estimates reveal that, compared to pre-pandemic numbers from 2019, the rate of deaths per miles driven in 2022 increased nearly 22 percent. These disturbing statistics are a reminder of how dangerous our roadways can be.

I want to emphasize that these deaths are indeed preventable—and also, that these numbers are widely believed to be undercounted, as many states do not include the option on crash reports to document distracted driving. It is therefore imperative we continue to raise awareness in this chamber and in our communities.

As we mark another Distracted Driving Awareness Month, I strongly encourage all motorists to firmly commit to driving safely and attentively, and to avoid using cell phones and in-vehicle technology that take attention away from the roads ahead.

HONORING GILBERT THOMAS SOWERS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Mr. Gilbert Thomas Sowers. Mr. Sowers, a resident of Richmond, Kentucky, is a patriotic American who served our country in the United States Army. He celebrated his 90th birthday on December 15, 2022.

Mr. Sowers was the son of William and Lily Durbin Sowers. He volunteered for military service in April of 1952 at the age of 18. He was sent to Pennsylvania for basic training and was later transferred to Germany. Mr. Sowers volunteered to go to Korea with the Second Infantry Division, where he was in charge of gathering intelligence. Following his first tour to Korea, he returned to Kentucky and married his wife, Betty.

Mr. Sowers went to work at the Madison Frozen Food Locker but, after 2 weeks there, he entered the National Guard at the rank of Sergeant First Class. He was sent to Korea for a second time in the late 1950s and to Germany in the 1960s with his family. In 1964, Mr. Sowers and his family moved back to the States, where he became a drill sergeant and then a mess hall sergeant. He is known still today as a great cook. Mr. Sower's next order took him to Vietnam as a Field Kitchen Supervisor. Not only did he cook; Mr. Sowers was involved in combat as well. He earned a Bronze Star for his heroic actions in helping to evacuate wounded soldiers after an enemy mortar attack in June of 1968. Following his tour in Vietnam, he served one more tour in Germany then retired from the service in 1975 after 24 years, 6 months, and 23 days of service to the United States.

Mr. Sowers serves as a Baptist preacher and the Chaplain of the local Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1066 in Richmond. He has also participated in missing man ceremonies. He represents all his fellow veterans with honor and dignity.

Mr. Sowers is a true patriot. He served our country proudly and I am humbled to honor the service of Mr. Gilbert Thomas Sowers before the United States Congress.